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What can we do about this uncertainty and vulnerability? Certainly, the situation adds importance to our strategic petroleum reserve. By summer's end, the reserve held stocks equal to about 10 days of imports, far behind the reserves accumulated by the Japanese and European economies but growing substantially at last. The newly authorized reserve of six months' worth of oil imports in the ground, though expensive, will reduce our economy's vulnerability. Basically, though, there are no quick answers to the vulnerability which follows from our nation's reliance on imported oil. Conservation will help. Encouragement of alternate fuels will help. Stockpiles of oil will help. But none of these measures can eliminate our vulnerability quickly or totally. We are hooked on imported oil. ■

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